

**Ethnic Minority Advisory Committee
Conference Call Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2009
9:30 -11:30 a.m.**

Present: Connie Mom-Chhing, Garrison Nutt, Thressa Alston, Lily Baldwin, Carrie Huie Pascua, Mary O' Brien, and Yu Ming Zhu

Staff: Hank Balderrama

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION LEADERS	DECISIONS, ACTIONS, ASSIGNMENTS
Introduction/ Announcements		All	
Review of Minutes	Minutes for March 2009 were reviewed but not approved. They were sent to members following the last meeting, and comments were received but have not yet been incorporated.	All	Assignments: Connie will update minutes from Garrison based on comments from EMAC members. Connie will send out March 2009 minutes to EMAC members for review and approval via email. Connie will send approved minutes to Christina Carter.

Federal Block Grant	Hank provided a basic review of FBG distribution (include 5% admin, 80% RSN, distribution of RSN funds, review process). MHPAC is expected to review in mid May FBG proposals received from RSNs. EMAC will have the opportunity to review the proposals and submit comments to MHPAC via Thressa by June 12, 2009. Thressa will represent EMAC in the MHD Planning and Advisory Council review process.	Hank	Assignment: Thressa will provide direct copies of FBG proposals to EMAC members for further review and comment.
Brochure	Carrie made the recommended changes. They were distributed via email during the meeting.	All	Assignment: Carrie completed brochure changes. Members will review and provide comment.
Bio-Sketches	Sketches still are needed from Shirley, Carrie and Andy. When all the sketches have been received, all will be reviewed by the full committee.	All	Assignment: The Bio-sketch document will be updated when others sketches are received before the next EMAC meeting in May.
MH Conference Scholarships	Connie has sent information to Stephanie Lane about EMAC members' interest in attending the annual Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference to be held in June in Vancouver. Connie received an email from Stephanie asking for EMAC members' contact information which she provided. The following EMAC members expressed interest in attending the conference: Carrie, Garrison, Lily, Yu Ming, and Mary. For now, EMAC is waiting to hear back from Stephanie.	All	
Recruitment	Thressa contacted a referral from Cathii Nash to EMAC as a potential member from eastern Washington. The candidate expressed interested in becoming a member. An application was sent from MHD to complete. Upon receipt of application, the information will be forwarded to EMAC for an invitational session. EMAC received a second application from King County. After reviewing our matrix, there are four members from King County, presently. The position slots from King County have been met at this time. Invitational options for this applicant would be considered for future meetings.	Thressa	Assignments: A letter will be sent to the applicant from King County to advise him of EMAC's commitment to representativeness and will advise him of future openings when King County has fewer

	Mary encouraged identification of a future EMAC membership position to be dedicated specifically for a person who is a consumer representative but does not bring other representation.		members. Mary requested for EMAC to discuss further about consumer involvement.
Policy Summit	<p>Washington has been approved to participate in the Policy Summit to be conducted in June; the Summit is sponsored by CMHS and is intended to address elimination of mental health disparities. A team of up to seven people will be sent. Summit facilitators contacted Hank yesterday in regard to team membership; they emphasized the importance of having consumer representation on the team. EMAC members encouraged consideration of EMAC member, Steven Collins. Secondly they encouraged Peer Counselors or Ombuds. Carrie suggested a member of the Greater Columbia QRT. Thressa suggested the person who was interested in EMAC membership from King County.</p> <p>EMAC members also noted that it will be important to have provider representation (clinicians) on the Summit team. If that isn't feasible, EMAC would like to have provider voice included in team discussions. The reason for the concern raised, regarding provider representation (clinicians), was the perceived need to have clinician involvement to provide input on the implementation of policy and the service delivery concerns. Questions were also raised regarding who made the decision on the makeup of the Washington State team. Both Garrison and Carrie acknowledged the importance of these 2 issues, based on their respective previous involvement on projects such as the Washington State Transformation Work Group. They emphasized the importance of input from individuals with first hand experience and knowledge about the daily operations of actual service providers and its undeniable/paramount importance to the decision making process.</p>	Hank	Decision: Committee members suggested Steven Collins as consumer representative.
Mental Health Specialist Guidelines, Consultation	In consultation with Connie, Tri-West has been identified as a sole source contractor to facilitate development of mental health specialist guidelines and consultation protocol. Tri-West personnel have been involved in the development of the national cultural competence standards. Tri-West is also	Connie	Information

Protocol	knowledgeable of the WA mental health system through their prior works with various RSNs.		
HB 2295	This bill requires DSHS to have each of its administrations and divisions to organize RSNs to conform to existing DSHS regions, with a minimum of not less than three nor more than six RSNs. Thressa asked how this may affect some of the members who are in RSN or direct service positions. At least one member expressed minimal concern about the potential impact of the plan to merge RSNs; expressing more of a concern about such issues as the exhibited lack of regard and accountability by some RSNs, in respect to cultural competency in the provision of mental health services to Washington communities.	Thressa	Action: EMAC members are not sure that the change will affect them significantly. Some EMAC members expressed that the RSN that they resided was already very sizeable with numerous counties would probably not benefit from further consolidation.
Next Meeting/ Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be May 8, 2009 by conference call.		